

LIBRARY

THIRSK

Rural District Council.

.....



Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
for the Year, 1937.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1937.

—:—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

As in past years, and in accordance with instructions from the Ministry, the report is in tabulated form and only alterations and developments during the year will be specifically reported on. In common with other districts the matter receiving chief attention was in connection with housing. This necessitated the appointment of Mr. White as Housing Inspector. This report, which is incorporated with Mr. Metcalfe's, shows the activity in Housing matters during the year.

—:—

Public Health Staff

Clerk : part time

Medical Officer: part time.

Matron of Isolation Hospital.

F. Metcalfe, C R.San I., M.S I A., full time

Sanitary Inspector.

G. R. White, Cert S.I B., M S.I.A.,

full time Sanitary Inspector.

—:—

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	72,000 (approx.)
R G's estimate of resident population mid. 1937			11,750
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937)			3,686
Rateable Value	...	...	£56,930
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£236

[ONE]

Unemployment was pretty much as in the case of last year. In fact the work at the Dishforth Aerodrome absorbed so much of the unemployment as to cause a shortage in the number of hands available for extra agricultural work such as hay time and harvest.

—:—

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—	197	80	117	
Legitimate	186	72	114	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population 16.76
Illegitimate	11	8	3	
Still Births—	7	4	3	
Legitimate	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 of all births 35.53
Illegitimate	1	1	Nil	
Deaths	175	90	85	Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 14.89

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Headings 29 & 30 of the R.G.'s short list.

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	1	5.07
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	Nil	
	TOTAL	1.	

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	76.14
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	80.64
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil

I do not think there was any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1) Public Health Staff.

See the beginning of the Report. This is increased from last year's by the addition of Mr. G. R. White, whose duties are in connection with housing.

(2) (a) Laboratory Facilities

are, as in previous years, available at the Clinical Research Association and the Laboratory at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate.

One hundred and six (106) swabs were sent for examination for Diphtheria. Of these 98 were negative and 8 positive. This unusually large number was due to the presence of Diphtheria at Norton-le Clay.

Eight sputa were sent for the detection of Tuberculosis. Of these two were positive and six negative.

A specimen of blood was submitted in connection with a suspected case of Typhoid fever and was found to be negative.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

These are as in former years, and are satisfactory.

The total mileage was 3,638 and was made up as follows:—

To Harrogate	10	journeys	
York	21	do.	
Leeds	4	do.	
Acomb	4	do.	
Lambert Hospital	39	do.	
Other	16		— 94 journeys.

Seventeen (17) cases were transported for accidents and 22 for immediate operation.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

As in previous years, and not under the control of the Council.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no clinics or treatment centres other than those controlled by Nursing Associations or by the County Council.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

The only Hospital under the control of the Council is the Isolation Hospital.

Ten cases of Diphtheria were treated in Isolation Hospitals during the year; one of these died. As we were unable to accommodate four of them, two were admitted to Northallerton and two to York.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in Hospital—five in our own Hospital and three at Northallerton.

SECTIONS C, D & E.

The information under these headings is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report which is included with mine.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

2. The principal infectious disease reported during the year was Diphtheria. This assumed epidemic form at one time and was finally traced to a school infection. The cases were isolated in Hospital and the epidemic abated. This occurred in March. In August there was a recurrence and the County Medical Officer assisted in the endeavour to trace the origin. Fortunately the number affected was small and the disease was confined as far as our area was concerned to two houses, and by isolation and disinfection of the infected premises the disease was got under control. The following schools were closed:—

<i>School</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Reason</i>
Sutton	17/1/37	6 days	Influenza
Sessay	19/1/37	6 days	do.
Sutton	23/2/37	11 days	Measles

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Diphtheria	10	10	1
Scarlet Fever	8	8	Nil
Pneumonia	23	Nil	19**
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil	1
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil

** 19 deaths out of 23 notifications would seem an unduly high mortality, but many of the deaths occurred in persons with regard to whom I did not receive a notification.

	Pneumonia	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1 yr.	4	—	—	—	—
1-2	—	—	—	—	—
2-3	2	—	—	—	—
3-4	—	1	1	—	—
4-5	—	—	1	—	—
5-10	3	3	1	—	—
10-15	—	3	1	—	—
15-20	1	—	2	—	1
20-35	4	2	2	1	1
35-45	—	—	—	—	—
44-65	4	1	—	—	—
65 & over	5	—	—	—	—
Total	23	10	8	1	2

(3) Cancer.

No action taken.

(4) (a) Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

The same supervision, with admission to Sanatoria where necessary, usually after consultation with the County Council's Tuberculosis Officer.

TUBERCULOSIS: Age Periods	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-15	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
25-35	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-45	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	2	6	1	2	2	2	1	0

All deaths were of persons already notified.

(Sgd.) W. G MacARTHUR,
Medical Officer of Health.

Census of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES.				90	85
1	Typhoid	...	...	—	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	1
6	Influenza	...	...	6	3
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			2	3
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—
13	Cancer	...	...	8	14
14	Diabetes	...	...	1	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	3	6
16	Heart Disease	...	...	15	17
17	Aneurysm	...	...	1	—
18	Other Circ. Diseases	...	...	6	6
19	Bronchitis	...	...	3	6
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	12	7
21	Other Resp. Diseases	...	...	2	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	—
26	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	1	1
27	Other Diges. Diseases	...	...	2	4
28	Nephritis	...	...	3	4
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital Debility	...	...	6	5
32	Senility	...	...	1	1
33	Suicide	...	...	2	—
34	Other Violence	...	...	6	1
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	7	1

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces—including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances

Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	3	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	2	—	—
TOTAL	... 14	1	0

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to S. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	—	—
TOTAL	... 1	—	—

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1937.

MR. F. METCALFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector,

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your information a statement of the Sanitary Works carried out for the abatement of nuisances, remedying of insanitary conditions and other matters of inspection during the year 1937.

Mr. G. R. White, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B. was appointed as Housing Inspector in July, 1937, and his report is included under Housing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.

19 water samples were submitted for analysis during the year, and in 2 cases were found unsatisfactory for drinking, the use of such wells was discontinued and piped water laid on.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage tanks and ditches which serve most of the Villages in the area have received periodical attention so as to prevent nuisance. In all 78 tanks have been cleaned out and 15 sewage ditches cleansed.

Scavenging.

The following return shows the scavenging carried out during the year in parishes of Thirsk and Sowerby.

Privies with fixed receptacles	1447
Privies with moveable receptacles	28476
Dustbins	46440
Fixed Ashpits	444
Total loads removed	1118
Number of Cesspools emptied	115

Trade refuse is collected once weekly from Shopkeepers' premises in Thirsk and Sowerby by arrangement, a small annual charge being made for this service.

The Council's employees also sweep up after the weekly Monday Market.

The refuse is collected by motor vehicle and disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerating Plant erected in 1932.

House refuse is collected by Contract in one other Village in the area, and in other villages tins, bottles and other incombustible refuse is periodically collected and disposed of by tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Total inspections made during the year	...	1326
Total re-inspections made during the year	..	544

Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	149
„ Slaughterhouses, etc., and Butchers' premises	...	352
„ Emergency slaughterings on farms, etc.	9	
„ Farms and Dairy premises (Milk & Dairies Order)	...	205
„ Factories, Workshops, etc.	...	7
„ Common Lodging House	...	3
Visits re Petroleum Acts	...	6
„ „ Water Supplies	...	19
„ „ New Buildings in course of erection	...	65
Inspection of Drains, Sewers and Sewage	...	81

Visits re Scavenging	...	...	347
„ „ Overcrowding	...	...	50
„ „ Infectious Diseases	...	...	9
„ „ Caravans	...	...	6
„ „ Schools	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	15

Number of premises which required Sanitary Improvement	...	297
„ Nuisances dealt with	...	64
„ Complaints received and dealt with	...	39
„ premises disinfected	...	24
„ Water Samples submitted for Analysis	...	19
„ Drains tested	...	20

NOTICES, ETC.

Informal Notices to Owners and Occupiers	...	131
„ „ complied with	...	69
Statutory Notices to Owners and Occupiers	...	16
„ „ complied with	...	5

SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

Houses.

Roofs, walls, etc., repaired	...	5
Rainwater spouts fixed or repaired	...	6
Fireplaces fixed or repaired	...	3
Coalhouses provided	...	5
Yards repaired	...	3
Floors repaired	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	4
Yards repaved with cement concrete	...	5
Accumulations removed	...	4
Dangerous buildings remedied	...	2
New sinks fixed	...	2
Waste pipes trapped	...	1
Dampness remedied	...	1
Water supplies improved	...	6
Well water supplies discontinued	...	2
Re-conditioned under Housing (Rural Workers) Act or under Sect. 11 Housing Act, 1936	...	1

Privies.

Converted into water closets	...	5
Provided with moveable receptacles	...	4

Ashpits.

Abolished	...	...	...	6
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	7
Defective dustbins renewed	...	...	...	9

Pail Closets.

Defective pails remedied	...	...	18
--------------------------	-----	-----	----

Water Closets.

Repaired	...	...	...	1
Provided	...	...	...	7

Drainage etc.

Drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	10
New Drains constructed	...	...	14
Drains ventilated	...	...	9
Gully traps fixed	...	...	14
Inspection chambers built	...	...	10
Sewers cleansed	...	...	6
Sewers relaid or repaired	...	...	4
Sewage tanks repaired	...	...	1
Cesspools provided	...	...	3
Urinals improved	...	...	1

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds repaired	...	...	2
Dairy outbuildings provided	...	...	4
Sheds re-constructed	...	...	6

Shops.

No action.

Smoke Abatement.

No action.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

None.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

No action called for.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	126
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	243
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	142
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	147
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	68
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	58

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	10
--	--	--	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a)		Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	
(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	

(a)	By Owners	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	...	—	
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
(a)	By Owners	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 19 & 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—	
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—	
4.—	Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :—			
(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year	...	37
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	37
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	238

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the Year	...	5
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the Year	...	22
	(2) Number of Persons concerned in such cases		112
(d)	Particulars of any case in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil

Clearance Areas.

On 8th November, 1937, the Council passed a resolution in respect of 10 Clearance Areas to be treated by way of Clearance Orders. A Public local inquiry was held in February, 1938.

Piggott's Yard (Norby) Clearance Order, 1937	14 houses
Waterside No. 1 Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Waterside No. 2 Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
Wayne's Yard (Market Place) Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Sowerby No. 3 Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Wootton's Yard (Thirsk) Clearance Order, 1937	5 „
Arch Row, Stammergate, Thirsk, Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
Goodrick's Yard Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
South Kilvington Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
Norby No. 4 Clearance Order, 1937	4 „

Individual Houses.

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1937 5 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at a reasonable expense, of being rendered so fit. The Housing Committee accepted the undertaking of the owners to carry out the work necessary to make the houses fit in 5 cases.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

During the Year 15 persons were registered under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, namely 4 for the Sale of Butter and Retailers of Milk, 9 as Producers and Wholesalers of Milk and one Retail Purveyor.

There were 225 registered premises at the end of the year, namely 85 Producers and Wholesale Traders of Milk, 51 Producer Retailers of Milk, 89 as Cowkeepers for Sale of Butter and 3 dairy premises where no cows were kept.

There is only one Licensed Producer of Certified Milk in the Area, of which such milk is sold outside the district.

There is no Pasteurized Milk produced or sold in the Area.

No complaint has been made with regard to the wholesomeness of the milk or butter within the district.

205 visits to premises were made during the year, and infringements of the Milk & Dairies Order were dealt with by informal action.

6 cowsheds have been re-constructed, 2 repaired, and 4 dairy outbuildings provided.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

352 visits to slaughterhouses, shops and other premises were made during the year. Carcasses of meat examined, were recorded, between August and December, and totalled 716 carcasses, namely :—

6 cows	120 heifers
62 bullocks	3 calves
355 pigs	165 sheep
5 lambs	

There are a total of 20 slaughterhouses, 9 being in Thirsk and 11 in the district, one of the district slaughterhouses being discontinued during the year.

The number of Licenced Slaughtermen total 31.

There is no public slaughterhouse.

The disposal of condemned and surrendered meat and other foods is carried out by cremation at the Council's Destructor Works.

(c) **Unsound Food.**

The following unsound food was destroyed during the year:—

Cattle.

Head, Lungs and Liver of Cow for Tuberculosis.

4 pairs Lungs, 2 Mesenteries of Bullocks
for Tuberculosis.

Fore quarters, Heads, Livers, Lungs and
Mesenteries of 2 Bullocks.

2 Livers of Bullock for Cirrhosis.

1 Liver of Bullock for Abscesses.

1 Kidney of Heifer for Nephritis.

1 Kidney of Bullock for Nephritis.

Pigs.

18 Heads, 11 Plucks, 4 spleens, 12 Mesenteries
for Tuberculosis,

6 pairs of Lungs for inflammation.

1 Liver for Cirrhosis,

Udder—Abscesses.

Sheep.

Hind quarter for bruising.

2 Livers for Cirrhosis.

Lungs and Liver (unsound)

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

